



With US aid money, schools put bigger focus on mental health

By CAROLYN THOMPSON and HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH of The Associated Press and KALYN BELSHA of Chalkbeat Chalkbeat and Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — In Kansas City, Kansas, educators are opening an after-school mental health clinic staffed with school counselors and social workers. Schools in Paterson, New Jersey, have set up social emotional learning teams to identify students dealing with crises. Chicago is staffing up "care teams" with the mission of helping struggling students on its 500-plus campuses. With a windfall of federal coronavirus relief money at hand, schools across the U.S. are using portions to quickly expand their capacity to address students' struggles with mental

health.

While school districts have broad latitude on how to spend the aid money, the urgency of the problem has been driven home by absenteeism, behavioral issues, and quieter signs of distress as many students have returned to school buildings this fall for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic hit.

For some school systems, the money has boosted long-standing work to help students cope with trauma. Others have launched new efforts to screen, counsel and treat students. All told, the investments put public schools more than ever at the center of efforts to attend to students' overall well-being.

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"In the last recession, with the last big chunk of recovery money, this conversation wasn't happening," said Amanda Fitzgerald, the assistant director of the American School Counselor Association. "Now, the tone across the country is very focused on the well-being of students."

Last month, three major pediatric groups said the state of children's mental health should be considered a national emergency. The U.S. Education Department has pointed to the distribution of the relief money as an opportunity to rethink how schools provide mental health support. Mental well-being, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona has said, needs to be the foundation for the recovery from the pandemic. The pandemic relief to schools totals \$190 billion, more than four times the amount the Education Department typically spends on K-12 schools annually. Mental health investments have gone into staff training, wellness screenings and curriculum dedicated to social-emotional learning.

Still, questions remain over how schools will find ways to make the benefits last beyond the one-time infusion of money, handle privacy concerns, and track the effectiveness of their efforts. The implementation worries Katie Dockweiler, a school psychologist in Nevada who sits on the state board of education.

"Not all programs are created equal," she said. "It really comes down to how it's implemented, school by school. And there's great



variability there."

She said districts should develop ways of tracking the impact on students: "Otherwise, we're just throwing our money away."

At the top of the list for many districts has been hiring new mental health specialists. When the National Association of School Psychologists surveyed members this fall, more than half of respondents said their districts intended to add social workers, psychologists, or counselors, according to policy director Kelly Vaillancourt Strobach.

With \$9.5 million from federal relief funding and outside grant money, Paterson schools added five behavioral analysts, two substance abuse coordinators, and the teams to spot students going through crises. In Paterson, one of the lowest-income parts of New Jersey, many of the 25,000 students faced food insecurity before the pandemic and struggled after family members lost jobs, Superintendent Eileen Shafer said. "We wanted to make sure before we try to teach anything new, that we're able

to deal with where our children are right now based on what they've been through," she said.

In rural Ellicottville, New York, where school psychologist Joe Prior is seeing more anxiety and a "significant increase" in panic attacks, the district wants to use rescue funds to hire a counselor to connect students with psychological help. But the position remains unfilled, as few expressed interest.

"I have more students just looking me in the eye and saying 'I'm completely overwhelmed and I'm not sure how to handle it,'" Ellicottville high school principal Erich Ploetz said.

It's not the only district where ambitions for hiring have outstripped the number of available professionals. Some districts have turned to outside vendors to help fill mental health positions, while others are training existing staff.

The Kansas City, Kansas, school system is using some of the \$918,000 in relief money dedicated to mental health to pay social workers and counselors al-

ready on staff to work at the new after-school clinic. The district also has added staff and mental health screenings.

Angela Dunn, who leads the 22,000-student district's mental health and suicide prevention initiatives, said the mental health team has responded to 27 student deaths and 16 staff deaths since the pandemic started, double what is typical during that period. She said a handful of staff members died of COVID-19, but many of the others were homicides, suicides and overdoses.

The investments by schools in student mental health services have raised some privacy concerns, especially where schools are now monitoring student computers for distress signals or administering mental health screenings to all students. But the idea that it's not the place of schools to involve themselves at all has receded.

"We just recognized that students are comfortable seeking help in a school setting," Dunn said.

Chicago, the nation's third-largest school district, unveiled a "healing plan" for students, using \$24 million of its \$2.6 billion in stimulus funds. Over three years, the district will expand "care teams" — building staff who serve as the frontline response for struggling students — to each campus. The goal is to reach 200 schools by spring.

High school principal Angélica Altamirano used some of that funding to open a space outfitted with cozy furniture and a hand-me-down air hockey table. Already, the campus center

has offered grief groups for students whose family members or friends have died and helped teachers dealing with burnout.

In Topeka, Kansas, \$100,000 was budgeted for calming items and staff for sensory rooms, including one at Quincy Elementary. When students get so frustrated that they put their heads down on their desk, or wander into the hallway or cry, teachers can send them to the Roadrunner Room. There, they can climb into a tent and snuggle under a weighted blanket, put a puzzle together, play with sand or build with Legos.

Dean of students Andrea Keck has watched the room become a go-to place for one student to work out frustrations.

"She can journal it, get her hair put up, whatever she needs, and then she is successful the rest of the day," said Keck, who oversees the room.

In Detroit, the district is spending \$34 million on mental health initiatives, including screening students, expanding help from outside mental health providers, and offering extra support to parents.

On a recent Wednesday, that meant an hourlong meditation session for parents at a local coffee shop. One attendee worried her own stress was affecting her son's ability to learn.

"As a community we have all been through something," said Sharlonda Buckman, an assistant superintendent who participated in the session. "Part of recovery has to be some intentional work in spaces like this, so we can be there for our kids." □

New 'rocket docket' for migrant families raises old concerns

NEW YORK (AP) — The average time for U.S. immigration cases to be resolved is nearly four years. But that's not the mandate in Francisco Prieto's courtroom.

The New York judge must attempt to rule within 300 days on dozens of cases he hears daily from families that just entered the country. The migrants are being sent to the front of the line with the idea that others will be less likely to migrate knowing a backlog of more than 1.4 million cases will no longer buy them a few years in the United States even if they lose.

Nearly six months ago, the Biden administration established a "dedicated docket" for families, many seeking asylum, in Prieto's city and 10 others, including Boston, San Francisco, Miami and El Paso, Texas. It is a modest step aimed at bringing order to the southern border, where authorities this year have faced unusually high numbers of migrant arrivals, including nearly 15,000, mostly Haitians, who camped under a bridge in the small border town of Del Rio, Texas, in September.

Roughly 35 of the country's more than 530 immigration judges are assigned to the new docket, according to the most recent data provided by the Executive Office for Immigration Review, which oversees federal immigration courts. Many juggle the duties on top of their normal caseloads.

While it's still early, the effort has made progress: As of mid-September, it was handling nearly 16,000 cases, and more than 100 had received at least an initial decision, according to the agency. It declined to provide more details.

Still, the numbers barely make a dent: Tens of thousands of migrants are released into the country each month, with orders to report to immigration authorities later.

The expedited docket also faces some of the same challenges and complaints as similar efforts under Biden's two predecessors. Critics say it rushes the com-



plex work of building asylum cases, making it nearly impossible for migrants to have a fair shot, especially if they can't secure an attorney in time. Judges follow the same procedures applied in other immigration cases but on a shorter timeline.

During the Obama and Trump administrations, most families that went through similar fast-track dockets lacked legal representation and were ultimately ordered removed from the country, according to the Migration Policy Institute, a D.C. think tank.

Prieto, the New York judge, is among those handling the most cases under the new docket, with more than 1,600 assigned to him by the end of August, according to the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, or TRAC, at Syracuse University.

One day last month, the Trump appointee urged families to find a low- or no-cost attorney on a government referral list. Some said no one answers the phone when they call, or they are told they can't be helped. Prieto told them to persist before he set new court dates.

Many families had immediate concerns: trouble with their ankle monitors or with rules confining them to their homes one day a week. Joselyn Margarita Aguilar, who appeared with her young daughter, can't leave her house on Fridays.

"I found a job and I lost it because I was told I can't miss Fridays at work," the Honduran woman told the judge. "I need more time (to find an attorney) because I don't have a job and I can't pay."

An unusually large number of cases got postponed because the court didn't receive hearing notices from the Homeland Security Department. Prieto told families to wait for another notice.

Creole interpreters were connected by phone for Haitian migrants. One family's hearing was delayed due to technical difficulties. Their child ran around the courtroom while they waited, crying loudly when his fingers got caught in a swinging door.

Another woman from Ecuador who arrived with her husband and two children, one in a stroller, asked for a work permit. Prieto told her to discuss it with an attorney.

More than half of cases are in New York and Boston, a common destination for Ecuadorians, Brazilians and Haitians.

The Justice Department, which oversees immigration courts, has said it chose the 11 cities involved not just because they're where most recent arrivals are settling, but because they have established legal service providers and available judges.

In Boston, which was added to the program relative-

ly recently, one judge had the most cases on the new docket of any in the country, at least through August. Mario Sturla had 3,178 cases assigned to him, on top of the nearly 4,000 others he was handling, according to TRAC.

One October afternoon, almost all of the roughly 20 cases before the Obama appointee were Brazilians, mostly parents with young children. The judge was courteous as families spoke through interpreters and juggled restless, sometimes crying children.

Few had lawyers. A 24-year-old woman from Cuenca, Ecuador, who asked to be identified by first name only for safety reasons, didn't know what to expect. The judge told her to return with an attorney in March.

"I was nervous, fearful, worried about what was going to happen," said Angie, who fled with a 4-year-old daughter and year-old son, citing threats of being forced into prostitution. "I'm better now. The judge seemed nice. He was very calm. But we'll see."

She and her kids crossed the border in San Diego in August and have settled temporarily with an uncle in Worcester, Massachusetts.

"The truth is, I am very afraid that they will return us to our country, and I do not know what will happen to us there," she said.

The fast-track docket is part of Biden's "humane" asylum system, which has included

few other detailed plans, save for a proposal to use asylum officers at the border to decide cases instead of judges.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, in an emailed statement this week, maintained the dedicated docket provides fair hearings for families seeking asylum.

He noted the Justice Department is working to provide families "legal orientation services" and referrals to pro bono lawyers — an improvement over prior "rocket docket" efforts.

"The goal of this process is to ensure that individuals who merit protection do not have to wait for years to get it, and that those who are ineligible for protection are quickly returned to their countries," Mayorkas said.

Theresa Cardinal Brown, a managing director at the Bipartisan Policy Center, said she's skeptical unless the effort gets more resources.

"You're still asking immigration judges who have a regular docket to also do this," said Brown, who recommends new positions to fund border courts that would aim to decide cases in six months. "You haven't expanded capacity at all." Neptali Chiluisa, 47, crossed the border in June in Arizona and was detained for a week with his 14-year-old son, leaving behind his wife and three other children in Ecuador. The son returned in August because Chiluisa had to work and couldn't find a nearby school with space.

Chiluisa, who rents a room for \$800 in a Bronx apartment he shares with other Ecuadorian families, was a boiler specialist for the army and found a similar job at New York construction sites. He acknowledges coming for economic reasons and wonders if he has any options for temporary legal status.

"The U.S. needs workers, so policies should be less harsh with us," he said. "We come to work."

A judge told him last month to return to court in November. □

Program to kill Grand Canyon bison nets 4 animals, criticism

By **FELICIA FONSECA** Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) —

Day three and the shooters were waiting under the cover of pine trees for the rain to let up. Thirty minutes later, a single branch snapped, revealing a small herd of bison in the distance.

Before a young cow was identified as the target, the massive animals disappeared into a thicket at the Grand Canyon's North Rim. "No shots and no bison," said Charles Gorecki, one of about a dozen volunteers selected to participate in a highly anticipated and highly criticized lethal removal program at the Grand Canyon.

Gorecki and the rest of his crew came up empty-handed after a week that required shooting proficiency tests, safety training and walking at least 30 miles (48 kilometers) in elevations that can leave flatlanders short-winded. Three other groups fared better, shooting and field dressing a total of four bison.

Up to 500 bison are roaming the far northern reaches of Grand Canyon National Park, trampling archaeological and other resources and spoiling the water,



park officials say. Hunting pressure on the adjacent national forest has pushed most of the animals into the park.

Critics say rather than killing the bison, the animals should be relocated to other areas or given to Native American tribes under an existing effort.

Lethal removal was one of the tools outlined in a 2017 plan approved after an environmental review, but the guidelines weren't established until more recently with the pilot program this fall.

More than 45,000 people applied in a lottery for 12

spots to help cull the herd and make bison less comfortable at the park. One person backed out and another failed the shooting proficiency test, leaving 10 volunteers from around the U.S. working to kill up to 10 bison.

"We were following bison and trying to find bison and disturbing bison by the mere fact of trying to remove them," said Grand Canyon wildlife biologist Greg Holm, who was among most of the crews. "So they had some activity this fall that I don't think they've ever experienced in the park."

As big as they are, they skillfully evaded most of the shooters.

"It was still a learning experience for all of us involved," said Gorecki, a military veteran who works at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. "We got an appreciation that they are very quiet and cunning. These animals, if they catch wind of us from hundreds of yards (away) in thick forest, you'll never ever see them. These are not big, fluffy forest cows."

Each volunteer selected up to three people who were on standby to help cut up the bison and pack the

meat out. The groups that shot a bison divided the meat and donated parts of the animals to the Navajo and Zuni tribes in Arizona and New Mexico, Holm said.

A crew led by the National Park Service killed one bison in a trial run in August. The meat was given to the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, Holm said.

Officials at the Grand Canyon haven't put a price tag yet on the program, but Holm said some of the cost is for overtime pay for park employees. They'll meet soon to determine whether to do it again, he said.

Various groups pushed the park service to call off what they argued is a hunt and suggested relocating the bison to southern Colorado instead. Hunting is prohibited within national parks, but the agency has authority to kill animals that harm resources using park staff or volunteers.

Olympic National Park in Washington state turned to volunteers to reduce the number of mountain goats, and Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado and Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota used volunteers for help with elk. □

Stocks edge higher on Wall Street, led by gains in Big Tech

By **DAMIAN J. TROISE** AP Business Writer

Stocks edged higher in afternoon trading on Wall Street Thursday a day after a surge in inflation tripped up major indexes.

The S&P 500 rose 0.3% as of 12:01 p.m. Eastern. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 59 points, or 0.2%, to 36,020 largely due to a steep drop in Walt Disney. The Nasdaq rose 0.8%.

Smaller-company stocks outpaced the broader market in a sign that investors were feeling confident about economic growth. The Russell 2000 rose 0.9%.

Technology stocks made the strongest gains, led by chipmakers. Nvidia rose 1.8% and Qualcomm rose 2.9%.

A mix of companies that rely on direct consumer spending also gained ground. Coach and Kate Spade owner Tapestry jumped 9.5% after reporting strong fiscal

first-quarter financial results.

Health care stocks fell. Medical technology maker Medtronic shed 2.3%. Industries that are considered less risky, including utilities and household product makers, lagged the broader market.

Walt Disney fell 7.1% after reporting a slowdown in subscriber gains at its streaming channel and weak fiscal fourth-quarter financial results.

Beyond Meat dropped 14.2% after reporting a much wider loss than analysts were expecting.

The latest round of corporate earnings has been winding down. Weeks of solid financial reports helped the broader market rise and reach a series of records. Inflation concerns have been rattling investors throughout the week, however.

"It's a pretty simple rule to be long during earnings and cautious outside of earnings," said Jay Hatfield,

CEO of Infrastructure Capital Advisors, "Earnings ends and then the stock market is a victim of other data, which tends to be bad."

Every major index slipped on Wednesday following a hotter-than-expected inflation report from the Labor Department that revealed a surge in consumer prices surged in October. That report came on the heels of data on Tuesday that showed inflation at the wholesale level also surged in October. The inflation concerns pushed bond yields broadly higher on Wednesday, though the bond market was closed for Veterans Day on Thursday. The yield on the 10-year Treasury stood at 1.55% as of late Wednesday.

Companies have been warning that they are being squeezed by higher raw materials costs and supply chain problems. Many have been able to pass off those higher costs to consumers, but that

has raised concerns about higher prices eventually prompting a pull-back in consumer spending.

The latest report on consumer prices revealed that inflation is hitting essential items such as food, rent, autos and heating oil particularly hard. Analysts worry that consumers could cut spending on discretionary items to focus on essentials, which could then crimp the broader economic recovery.

Concerns about rising inflation are also raising expectations that the Federal Reserve will have to raise short-term interest rates more quickly off their record low. The central bank has already begun to pare back on the bond purchases it makes every month to keep longer-term rates low.

"The weird thing is what's hurting the economy is also supporting the stock market," Hatfield said, referring to the Fed's stimulus measures. □

'Prove us wrong' activist tells leaders at UN climate talks

By FRANK JORDANS

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP)

— A Ugandan activist personified the fears of young people and vulnerable countries at Thursday's U.N. climate talks in Glasgow that world leaders won't take the action needed to prevent potentially lethal levels of global warming.

"The latest available science tells us that in order to avoid the worst impacts of the climate crisis, we must reduce global CO2 emissions by somewhere between 7% to 11% this year, and next year, and every year after year, until we get to zero," Vanessa Nakate told business and political leaders in an impassioned speech at the conference.

In reality, annual emissions are expected to surge in 2021, as the world economy bounces back from the pandemic.

"So I hope you can understand why many of the activists who are here in Glasgow, and millions of



activists who could not be here, do not see the success that is being applauded within these halls," said Nakate.

Experts say that all of the latest pledges made by governments around the world could, if fully realized,

bend the curve of global warming below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) — the upper threshold set in the 2015 Paris accord.

But scenarios that look at what countries have committed to in the short term put warming at 2.7C (4.9F),

far beyond levels science considers safe for human civilization. The head of the United Nations told The Associated Press on Thursday that he believes the more ambitious Paris goal of limiting global warming to 1.5C is now "on life support."

"Where I live a two-degree world means that a billion people will be affected by extreme heat stress," said Nakate.

"Some places in the global south will regularly reach a wet bulb temperature of 35 degrees Celsius (95 F)," she said, referring to a situation of extreme heat that researchers say is becoming increasingly common.

"At that temperature the human body, cannot cool itself by sweating," said Nakate. "Even healthy people sitting in the shade will die within six hours."

She called for "drastic action (that) will pull us back from the abyss," saying past promises on climate change had been repeatedly broken.

"I'm actually here to beg you to prove us wrong," said Nakate. "We desperately need you to prove us wrong. Please prove us wrong. God, help us all, if you fail to prove us wrong. God help us." □

Leaders in Paris to call for protecting children online

By SYLVIE CORBET

PARIS (AP)

— Some world leaders and internet giants are expected to issue a global call to better protect children online during a Paris summit gathering about 30 heads of state and government, including U.S. Vice-President Kamala Harris, the French presidency said.

"Protecting our children and teenagers online means taking them away from inappropriate or dangerous content, from violence, hatred and pornography," French President Emmanuel Macron tweeted. He called on states, organizations and companies to "make concrete commitments for 2022" on the occasion of the Paris Peace Forum.

The Elysee said about 450 participants are expected at the three-day summit that opens Thursday, while 15,000 others will attend online. The summit brings together world leaders, CEOs, NGOs and others to discuss global issues such

as climate, the COVID-19 pandemic and the digital transition.

Macron is to chair a session about children's rights in the presence of Youtube CEO Susan Wojcicki and Amazon senior vice president Russel Grandinetti.

The call aims at making "joint commitments" on how to make the internet safer for children, a French official said. It will mark a "starting point" on taking concrete action including enforcing parental control on digital tools, protecting children from inappropriate content and preventing cyber-stalking, prostitution and child pornography, the official said.

Macron, Harris, EU Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will also attend another panel on regulating the digital domain, along with Microsoft president Brad Smith.

Children rights' advocates have for years urged internet giants to take action to

better protect children.

Revelations last month from whistleblower Frances Haugen showing internal Facebook studies of the harm of Instagram on teenagers only intensified parent's concerns about the popular photo sharing app.

Nora Fraise, head of a French association fighting school bullying, on Thursday praised "a key moment" because it puts "international pressure" on internet giants.

Fraise founded "Marion La Main Tendue" ("Marion The Outstretched Hand") after her daughter, Marion, committed suicide at the age of 13 because she was being harassed at school.

"Those who are spreading hatred via their pipes hold some responsibility," she said about popular social media apps like TikTok, Instagram and Snapchat. Cyberbullying and bullying at school are often interconnected.

Fraise said social media companies should request a proof of identity as a first

step and have better control over published content. Social media companies have generally banned kids under 13 from signing up for their services, although it's been widely documented that kids sign up anyway, either with or without their parents' permission.

Fraise, who speaks in schools about online risks,

also called for better educating children and parents on these issues.

She cited a nationwide study her association commissioned this year that showed the proportion of those who attempted suicide is higher among children bullied at school (12%) than in the general population (7%). □



US urges citizens to leave Haiti amid deepening turmoil



By EVENS SANON
PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)
— The U.S. government is urging U.S. citizens to leave Haiti because of the country's deepening insecurity and a severe lack of fuel

that has affected hospitals, schools and banks. Gas stations remained closed on Thursday. The rare warning from the U.S. State Department comes as Haiti's govern-

ment and police are struggling to control gangs that have blocked fuel distribution terminals for several weeks. "Widespread fuel shortages may limit essential services in an emergency, including access to banks, money transfers, urgent medical care, internet and telecommunications, and public and private transportation options," the State Department warned on Wednesday. "The U.S. Embassy is unlikely to be able to assist U.S. citizens in Haiti with departure if commercial options become unavailable." It's unclear how many U.S. citizens currently live in Haiti. A State Department

official told The Associated Press that it does not provide those statistics and U.S. citizens are not required to register their travel to a foreign country. The warning comes as U.S. and Haitian authorities are trying to secure the safe release of 17 members of a missionary group from Ohio-based Christian Aid Ministries who were kidnapped by the 400 Mawozo gang on Oct. 16. There are five children in the group of 16 U.S. citizens and one Canadian. Their Haitian driver also was abducted. "We request continued prayer for the kidnappers, that God would soften their hearts," the organiza-

tion said in a statement on Wednesday. "As you pray, remember the millions of Haitians who are suffering through a time of serious upheaval and unrest." On Tuesday, top Haitian government officials acknowledged the widespread lack of fuel during a news conference and said they were working to resolve the situation, although they provided no details. Defense Minister Enold Joseph said the government is investigating why 30 fuel tanks sent to Haiti's southern region went missing, adding that he has observed gasoline being sold on the black market. □

Heavy rains in southern India kill 14 people, flood Chennai

NEW DELHI (AP) — At least 14 people have died in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu during days of heavy rains, officials said Thursday. Several districts in the state are on high alert, bracing for more torrents as a depression over the southwest Bay of Bengal was set to cross northern Tamil Nadu on Thursday evening. The Indian Meteorological Department warned of intense rains in isolated places. The heavy rains first struck over the weekend, hitting the capital, Chennai. Photos and videos from the city showed residents wading through knee-deep wa-

ters and vehicles nearly submerged in the heavily flooded roads. Two people died in the last 24 hours, said N Subbaiyan, the director of the state's disaster management, adding that the other 12 were killed over the past few days. At least 800 huts have been destroyed this past week by the rains, said Kumar Jayant of the state's revenue department. Multiple teams of the National Disaster Response Force have been deployed to help local authorities with rescue efforts. In Chennai, which is among the worst hit, officials have evacuated hundreds of

people from vulnerable areas. Authorities have also set up over 100 relief centers and distributed free food, local media reported. Flights into Chennai have been suspended. The rains this week are among the heaviest to hit the city since 2015. Experts have warned that more heavy rains can trigger further flooding and devastation. "The public should not go out," Greater Chennai Commissioner Gagandeep Singh Bedi told New Delhi Television on Wednesday. He said authorities had managed to drain the majority of the floodwaters, but cautioned that low-



lying areas could once again get inundated. Rains at this time in Tamil Nadu are not unusual, but experts have warned that climate change has exacerbated the problem, mak-

ing the downpours more intense and frequent. Last month, flooding and landslides caused by heavy rains killed at least 28 people in neighboring Kerala state. □

Germans celebrate Carnival again despite high virus numbers



BERLIN (AP) — Carnival revelers in the western Germany city of Cologne were lining up Thursday to show proof of their COVID-19

vaccinations before they could begin the start of the outdoors celebrations — after a hiatus due to the pandemic last year.

Despite strict pandemic rules, the start of the carnival season was overshadowed by a coronavirus infection of Cologne's official head of celebrations. Carnival Prince Sven I. announced Tuesday that he had tested positive despite being vaccinated and canceled all public appearances including the traditional reception at Cologne's city hall, German news agency dpa reported. On Cologne's Heumarkt square in the old city, how-

ever, thousands of revelers dressed up as clowns, bees, pirates or tigers and seemed unfazed by the country's spiking virus numbers as they danced tightly to brass band live music. "We waited so long to celebrate together again," Cologne Mayor Henriette Reker said on public broadcaster WDR. "Carnival is simply part of our culture." Carnival parties took place all over the Rhineland. In Duesseldorf, locals and tourists alike danced to this

year's theme song "Let's celebrate life," and in Koblenz they celebrated, drank and sang on the Muenzplatz square. At the start of the pandemic in early 2020, Germany's first virus outbreak took place in the western German town of Heinsberg after people celebrated Carnival at an indoors event. Carnival celebrations in the Rhineland traditionally begin on the 11th of November at 11:11 in the morning and last until Ash Wednesday the following year. □

Frustration, defiance in village to be abandoned to the sea

By SYLVIA HUI

Associated Press

FAIRBOURNE, Wales (AP)

— Like many others who came to Fairbourne, Stuart Eves decided the coastal village in northern Wales would be home for life when he moved here 26 years ago. He fell in love with the peaceful, slow pace of small village life in this community of about 700 residents, nestled between the rugged mountains and the Irish Sea.

"I wanted somewhere my children can have the same upbringing as I had, so they can run free," said Eves, 72, who built a caravan park in the village that he still runs with his son. "You've got the sea, you've got the mountains. It's just a stunning place to live."

That changed suddenly in 2014, when authorities identified Fairbourne as the first coastal community in the U.K. to be at high risk of flooding due to climate change.

Predicting faster sea level rises and more frequent and extreme storms due to global warming, the government said it could only afford to keep defending the village for another 40 years. Officials said that by 2054, it would no longer be safe or sustainable to live in Fairbourne.

Authorities therefore have been working with villagers on the process of so-called "managed realignment" — essentially, to move them away and abandon the village to the encroaching sea.

Overnight, house prices in Fairbourne nosedived. Residents were dubbed the U.K.'s first "climate refugees." Many were left shocked and angry by national headlines declaring their whole village would be "decommissioned." Seven years on, most of their questions about their future remain unanswered.

"They've doomed the village, and now they've got to try to rehome the people. That's 450 houses," said Eves, who serves as chair of the local community council. "If they want us out by 2054, then they've got to



have the accommodation to put us in."

No one here wants to leave. While many are retirees, there are also young families raising a next generation. Locals speak proudly of their tight-knit community. And although the village center only consists of a grocer's, a fish and chip shop and a couple of restaurants, residents say the pebbly beach and a small steam train draw bustling crowds in the summer. Natural Resources Wales, the government-sponsored organization responsible for the sea defenses in Fairbourne, said the village is particularly vulnerable because it faces multiple flooding risks. Built in the 1850s on a low-lying salt-marsh, Fairbourne already lies beneath sea level at high spring tide. During storms, the tidal level is more than 1.5 meters (5 feet) above the level of the village.

Scientists say U.K. sea levels have risen about 10 centimeters (4 inches) in the past century. Depending on greenhouse gas emissions and actions that governments take, the predicted rise is 70 centimeters to 1 meter by 2100.

Fairbourne is also at the mouth of an estuary, with additional risks of flash floods from the river running behind it. Officials have spent millions of pounds in strengthening a sea wall and almost 2 miles of tidal

defenses.

While there are flood risks in many other villages along the Welsh coast, decisions on which areas to protect ultimately boil down to cost.

Officials say that in the case of Fairbourne, the cost of maintaining flood defenses will become higher than "the value of what we're protecting."

The effects of climate change that negotiators at the United Nations climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, are working to mitigate already are a reality here.

Catrin Wager, a cabinet member of Gwynedd Council, the local authority overseeing Fairbourne, stressed that while Fairbourne may be the first Welsh coastal village to be designated unviable due to climate change, it certainly won't be the only one. There's no precedent for how to develop policies for helping the villagers adapt, she said.

"We need more answers from the Welsh and U.K. governments, that's my message going into this (U.N. summit)," Wager said. "We really need to get some guidance on not only mitigating the effects of climate change, but about how we adapt for things that are already happening."

Across the U.K., half a million properties are at risk of coastal flooding — and

versity.

Ultimately, "difficult decisions" need to be made about many coastal settlements with disproportionately high numbers of older and poorer residents, he said, and officials need to prepare people for moving inland.

"Whatever happens at COP the sea level will continue to rise around the U.K., that's something we absolutely need to prepare for," Dawson said. "We have to be realistic. We can't afford to protect everywhere. The challenge for government is that the problem is not being confronted with the urgency or openness that we need."

In Fairbourne, a continuing standoff between villagers and officials underlines that challenge. Residents feel they have been unfairly singled out and aren't convinced there is a clear timeframe on how quickly sea levels will rise enough to threaten their homes. When and how will evacuation take place? Will they be compensated, and if so how much should it be?

There are no answers. □

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Travellers' Choice 2020

LOCAL



ORANJESTAD — It was the official Grand Opening of Harbour House Aruba last Thursday, June 10th. The residence consisting of 94 units is located in the former Mar Azul building, right in the heart of Oranjestad. The two brothers Irwin J. Perret-Gentil and Alberto Perret-Gentil from PERING, one of the largest, privately-owned Real Estate and construction firms in Venezuela and Aruba, officially opened their new jewel in the presence of the invitees.

Harbour House Aruba officially open! 80 % sold, construction in final phase: Harbour House Aruba is ready for you!



Harbour House Aruba is the ultimate smart investment or personal living space. A state-of-the-art lobby, an ocean-view gym, bar service, rooftop with 360 degrees view of Oranjestad, on-site parking, 24-hours security and a top floor lounge area with Jacuzzi's. Cherry on the cake: an infinity pool with a panorama on the harbour.

Harbour House Aruba offers cosmopolitan living in a beach-chic environment. The residence is fast-selling for many reasons but in a nutshell we can name: great location, great value for your money and great quality. To see exactly what still is available you may check the website which shows you a map with sold and open units. Updates on construction are also on forehand. When you live abroad stopping by to check upon your purchase is not that simple, yet with the monthly updates on their website, it is a lot easier.

the waterfront and enjoy a drink on a terrace or dive into the art gallery, souvenir store or even have dinner facing the atmospheric harbour of Oranjestad.

The process of purchase is easy, whether you are abroad or on the island. Make an appointment through the website to visit the sales office when you are here. In that way you can actually see the unit, materials and amenities. If you are not on the island the website can help you out and the sales office is happy to send you all needed documentation for you to orientate. When agreed upon the unit you sign an agreement and move forward with the down payment which is \$ 50.000. At receipt of that amount the sales is closed and the price will not change. You know what you get and will not be surprised by price changes. The payment agreements after the deposit will be discussed and are flexible. Harbour House Aruba assist also in financing by banks. For more information: <https://harbourhousearuba.com>.

Hottest condo in town

Aruba Today talked to one of the owners from New York: "This is going to be the hottest condo building on the island because this is the very first thing people see when they arrive here by cruise ship and it is the only one combining the ocean, port and city. We feel so happy to be the owner here, also, the organization is amazing. We are being accommodated in every way, the attention you get is extraordinary."

Boardwalk

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AHATA: CDC Level 4 Alert continued to impact hotel occupancy in October

ORANJESTAD – The Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association has released the most recent hotel performance results and announced that in October the hotels experienced a 12-point loss in average occupancy after the CDC's alert travel for Aruba was raised.

EFFECT ON OCTOBER:

	Occupancy	Recovery compared to 2019
November	71%	85%
December	73%	88%
January	72%	81%
2021	59%	70%

OCTOBER 2021 DATA:

- **Occupancy:** The occupancy rate was 60%, which is a level of occupancy that is 21% lower than in October 2019.
- 9 out of 20 hotels experienced a lower than 50% occupancy rate in October.
- **ADR:** The average daily rate (for occupied rooms) was \$238.24, which is 8.6% higher than in 2019.
- **RevPAR:** The revenue per available room was 14% lower than a year ago, at \$143.35.

YEAR TO DATE:

Year to date, Aruba's hotels experienced an average occupancy of

54%; a recovery rate of 64%. When compared to the same period last year, ADR is down 7.4% and RevPAR down 40.8%.

OCCUPANCY FORECAST:

	OCC Forecast Reported on 8/7	OCC Forecast Reported on 9/6	Actual OCC Reported on 11/7
October	72%	65%	60%

TIMESHARE

AHATA's Timeshare properties experienced an 81% occupancy in October, and are projecting an 82% average occupancy in November.

AHATA member hotels: Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort, Barceló Aruba, Boardwalk Boutique Hotel, Brickell Bay Beach Club, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Courtyard by Marriott, Divi & Tamarijn All-Inclusive, Eagle Aruba Resort, Holiday Inn Resort Aruba, Hyatt Regency Aruba, Hyatt Place Aruba Airport, Manchebo Beach Resort, Marriott Aruba & Stellaris Casino, Paradera Park, Radisson Blu Aruba, Renaissance Aruba Resort, The Ritz-Carlton Aruba, RIU Palace Aruba, RIU Palace Antillas, Talk of the Town Hotel.

AHATA member timeshares: Divi Aruba Phoenix, Divi Dutch Village, Divi Village Golf, La Cabana, Marriott Ocean Club, Marriott Surf Club. □

Honored guests at La Cabana Beach Resort

EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The Distinguished Visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation and to say 'Masha Danki', to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple Mr. Edwin and Mrs. Tamara De Lara, from USA!

This lovely couple stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its cleanliness, and Aruba's warm and friendly people whom have become like family to them.

Richardson together with the representatives of the La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino presented the certificate to the honorees,



handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite va-

cation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

Opening of ArtisA Gallery



ORANJESTAD –The Minister of Culture, Mrs. Xiomara Maduro attended the official opening of the unique ArtisA Gallery, located in the center of San Nicolas.

The objective of ArtisA is to create local and international projects for the public.

So far, the Aruba Art Fair, where local and international artists have the freedom to create wall art, particularly in the main street of San Nicolas, is the most popular. In addition to this project, ArtisA will be focus-

ing on different events, projects, tours, and the gallery itself, which is a dream coming true for its creator Tito Bolivar.

During the evening, the

guests enjoyed the creations of local talent Elvis Tromp, to which the opening evening was dedicated. 'Discover the World of Elvis Tromp through a Culinary & Art Experience' was the theme for the official opening.

Tito hopes that the culinary and art experience concept attracts guests. Not only to experience art at the ArtisA Gallery but also to experience the artist's favorite dishes prepared by Chef Makaveli. For the opening evening, Chef Makaveli prepared a 5-course dinner that transmitted the culinary taste of Artist Elvis Tromp, and the guests certainly enjoyed this experience. □



Aruba recovers 88% of the tourism in October 2021

Recovery – Monthly arrivals 2021 compared to 2019



ORANJESTAD –Data collected by the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA), indicates that Aruba has seen a recovery of 88% of the tourism in October 2021 compared to October 2019.

100% recovery in comparison with 2019. 2019 is being used as a reference year as this was one of the best years for tourism in Aruba.

The USA market has seen a recovery of 94% in the same month compared to 2019. The impressive recovery of the US market has caused significant growth in the economy. The recovery is exceeding all forecasts projected at the beginning of 2021.

According to the ATA's outlook, the year 2022 looks very promising for tourism. If we stay on track, we can surpass the

Despite all the challenges, especially the Covid-19 pandemic, Aruba has been recovering at an accelerated speed. It is resulting in Aruba being the destination in the Caribbean with the fastest recovery. The recovery of tourism in Aruba will ultimately further economic growth and job creation. The recovery of tourism is an effort of the Ministry of Tourism, the stakeholders ATA, AAA, APA & AHATA, and the entire community. □

Prepaid High-Speed Internet anywhere on the island



ORANJESTAD — Are you in Aruba for "Workation" and need high-speed Internet anywhere at any time? SETAR, Aruba's biggest telecom provider, offers you the fastest wireless Internet plans on an LTE network.

Work remotely on the beach via your tablet, laptop, or smartphone and enjoy faster upload and download speeds. SETAR Prepaid Wireless Broadband offers you a lower latency rate, meaning websites loads faster, YouTube

does not pause every five seconds, and apps download at a higher speed, all using your Mi-Fi device. SETAR Wireless Broadband Prepaid offers you Internet anywhere for a fixed fee without worrying about additional charges, and it is easy to use and access. Choose the bundle that suits your budget and needs.

Visit SETAR Teleshop with locations around the island or at the airport to check your Mi-Fi SIM or device. □

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Chinese shoppers spend \$139 billion during Singles' Day fest

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese shoppers spent \$139.1 billion during this year's annual Singles' Day shopping extravaganza, breaking last year's record even though spending slowed during the coronavirus pandemic. Alibaba tallied 540.3 billion yuan (\$84.5 billion) in spending over the festival that spanned Nov. 1 to Nov. 11, the company said Thursday, a growth of 14% compared to a nearly 93% increase last year.

Rival JD.com reported 349.1 billion yuan (\$54.6 billion) in transactions this year, from Oct. 31 to Nov. 11, about a 28% increase compared to 32% growth in 2020.

The slowdown in growth for the world's largest online shopping festival, which typically ends on Nov. 11, comes amid reduced marketing hype and a crack-down on the technology industry.

Singles' Day has been viewed as the largest online marketing event of the year. In previous years, the festival was heavily advertised for weeks ahead of



time with brands and merchants offering deep discounts to attract consumers looking for bargains.

But shoppers say deep discounts of what is also called "Double Eleven" are now a thing of the past and experts are predicting lower sales as the economy slows.

This year, Alibaba, the e-commerce platform that pioneered the online shopping festival more than a

decade ago, decided not to showcase a running tally of its real-time gross merchandise volume (GMV) — defined as the amount of transactions racked up across its platform — on its site for the shopping festival, taking on a more muted tone compared to previous years of glitzy marketing campaigns.

Chinese regulators have cracked down on technology companies, investigat-

ing giants like Alibaba and food delivery firm Meituan over alleged anti-competitive practices.

Earlier this year, Alibaba was fined a record \$2.8 billion for violating antitrust rules. Ahead of Singles' Day, Alibaba, rival JD.com and Meituan were among companies asked to curb excessive marketing text messages sent to consumers during the festival.

Last week, 16 e-commerce

platform operators — some of which are linked to Alibaba and Meituan — were also summoned by regulators in the southern province of Guangdong and warned over "unfair competition."

Platforms are also reining in the marketing hype to align themselves with Chinese President Xi Jinping's calls for "common prosperity," which includes curbing excess and advocating for more equitable distribution of wealth and resources.

"The decision not to publish a live GMV tally suggests China's major e-commerce platforms believe this consumption display is incongruent with current 'common prosperity' themes," said Michael Norris, research strategy manager at the Shanghai-based consultancy AgencyChina. "While not publishing a live GMV tally may appease local sensibilities, without careful management, it may spook foreign investors who are already concerned about Alibaba's growth prospects," he said. □

US shoppers outspend Chinese to restore luxury market

By COLLEEN BARRY AP Business Writer

MILAN (AP) — The personal luxury market of high-end accessories, leather goods and apparel has snapped back to pre-pandemic levels as U.S. shoppers outspent those in China in pursuit of the latest fashion trends, according to a study released Thursday by the Bain consultancy.

Global consumer spending on personal luxury goods, including the latest sneaker trend or design collaboration, is forecast to spike by 29% this year, to 283 billion euros (\$325 billion). That's a return to 2019 levels and a turnaround from the gloom of the 2020 pandemic lockdowns that shuttered stores and halted international travel.

The recovery is expected to be supported by a strong holiday shopping season, Bain said.

"We are pretty positive,

even if the growth rate in particular in China has been slowing down since mid-August. But they are still very strong," said Claudia D'Arpizio, the Bain partner who headed up the study. "There has been a sharp V-shaped recovery for personal goods."

The larger global luxury market, which extends to high-end travel, dining, fine art and furnishings, continues to lag 2019 levels, Bain said.

Consumers have shifted spending to high-quality furnishings, as many have been spending time at home instead of globe-trotting, while travel restrictions have been especially hard on luxury hotels, fine dining and cruises, all sectors that have yet to fully recover.

Global luxury comprehensively is expected to reach 1.1 trillion euros (\$1.26 trillion) this year, which is about 10% below 2019 lev-

els. The hardest-hit sector is luxury cruises, with spending down 80% from pre-pandemic levels and reduced even from 2020. Still, strong bookings for 2022 offer "glimmers of hope," D'Arpizio said.

With international tourism still hampered, consumers have started picking up their new fashion trends at home, instead of fueling duty-free sales abroad.

U.S. consumers have at least temporarily supplanted the Chinese as the biggest spenders, accounting for one-third of all sales this year, compared with about 23% by Chinese shoppers, who were on par with Europeans. That trend is expected to invert by 2025, with nearly half of all spending by Chinese consumers, just over 20% by Americans and 18% by Europeans.

Bain forecasts that tourism will rebound by the end of

next year to mid-2023, but D'Arpizio said she expects the pandemic will have established new habits, with luxury shoppers doing a lot of spending at home, not necessarily abroad.

"We expect tourists to come back. We don't expect them to be as relevant as before," she said.

The pandemic also has accelerated the shift to online shopping and reinforced the predominance of bigger brands in the market-

place, while encouraging the use of collaborations and digital campaigns to grab attention.

"The pandemic is widening the gap. We now see clear winners and losers. Bigger brands have more muscle," D'Arpizio said.

In this way, they have exploited connections within larger conglomerates, like the Gucci and Balenciaga tie-up between the two brands owned by French group Kering. □



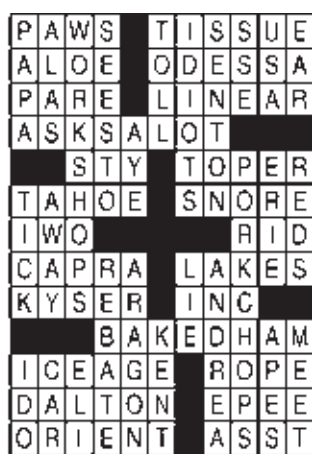
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

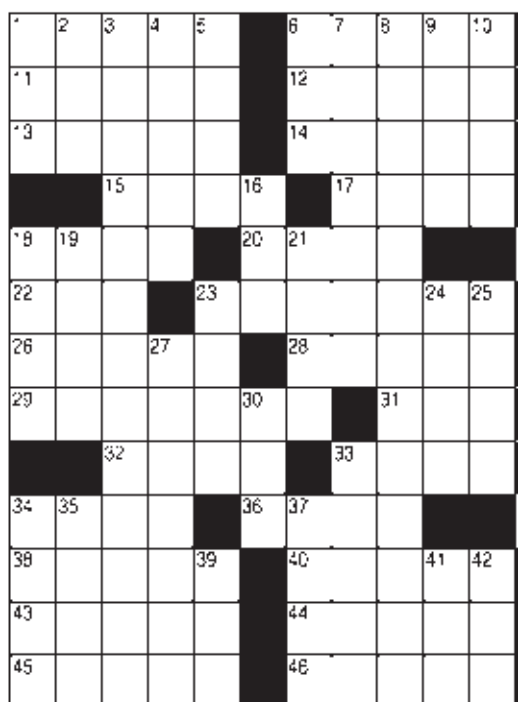
- ACROSS**
- 44 Past, present or future
 - 6 Dominant
 - 11 Quartet member
 - 12 Like the icecaps
 - 13 Tom Sawyer's creator
 - 14 Practical joke
 - 15 Article
 - 17 Terminates
 - 18 Hamlet, for one
 - 20 Skilled
 - 22 High trains
 - 23 Cathedral figures
 - 26 Flower part
 - 28 Shred
 - 29 Well-chilled
 - 31 Wallet bill
 - 32 Pretentious
 - 33 Hearty dish
 - 34 Make brownies
 - 36 Throw off
 - 38 La Scala songs
 - 40 Great Lakes tribe
 - 43 Winning cry

DOWN

- 1 Play division
- 2 Kitten call
- 3 Frank
- 4 Select group
- 5 Finished
- 6 Phone download
- 7 River
- 8 Aircraft-tracking hobby
- 9 Poker round
- 10 Sacred chests
- 16 Spoil
- 18 Lucy's husband
- 19 Guinness of film
- 21 Swallow, e.g.
- 23 Novel idea
- 24 Melody
- 25 Gush forth
- 27 Farm measure
- 30 Caustic compound
- 33 Temptress
- 34 Paul Bunyan's ox
- 35 Like the Kalahari
- 37 Self-referential
- 39 Lawn material
- 41 Twisty turn
- 42 Filming site



Yesterday's answer



11-12

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three U's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-12

CRYPTOQUOTE

ESXVHT UMSZ UY ZMVHL
TV DYE GE S UVAYO
RKHDY OESZVKHSW OSHTY ZMSH
ESXVHT UMSZ UY LHKU.

— RGWWYH MVTMZKUYO
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE ONLY SURE
WEAPON AGAINST BAD IDEAS IS BETTER IDEAS.
AL EREN WHITNEY CRISWOLD

SpaceX crew launch marks 600 space travelers in 60 years



By MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — A SpaceX rocket carried four astronauts into orbit Wednesday night, including the 600th person to reach space in 60 years. The repeatedly delayed flight occurred just two days after SpaceX brought four other astronauts home from the International Space Station. They should have been up there to welcome the newcomers, but NASA and SpaceX decided to switch the order based on Monday's ideal recovery weather in the Gulf of Mexico and pulled it off.

"It was a great ride, better than we imagined," mission commander Raja Chari said shortly after the spacecraft reached orbit.

The launch was just as riveting for spectators at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, as well as along the East Coast, as the Falcon rocket thundered through clouds on its way to space, turning night into day.

Germany's Matthias Maurer claimed the No. 600 position, according to NASA, based on his mission assignment. He and his three NASA crewmates should arrive at the space station in under 24 hours, well over a week late.

One of the astronauts — NASA isn't saying which one — was sidelined last week by an undisclosed medical issue. The crew member is fully recovered, according to NASA. Officials won't say whether it was an illness or injury, but noted it wasn't COVID-19.

Bad weather also contrib-

uted to their flight delays. Chari said trying to launch on Halloween left them with "a trick instead of a treat." It was also drizzling Wednesday night when the four astronauts said goodbye to their families for six months — with everyone huddling under umbrellas — but it cleared up by launch time. "Enjoy your holidays among the stars.

We'll be waving as you fly by," SpaceX launch director Mark Soltys radioed to the crew.

The list of 600 travelers ranges from those who have barely scratched space — like actor William Shatner last month — to U.S. and Russian astronauts who have spent a year or more in orbit. This year's surge in space tourists helped push the tally over the 600 mark. That averages out to 10 people per year since Yuri Gagarin's pioneering flight in 1961, Maurer noted.

"But I think in a very few years, we will see an exponential rise of that one because now we're entering the era of commercial spaceflight," he said after arriving at Kennedy Space Center two weeks ago.

The crew launch marked SpaceX's fourth for NASA and the company's fifth passenger flight overall

— including a September charter flight for four that skipped the space station. The Dragon capsule's toilet leaked during their three days in orbit, necessitating a quick redesign of the flushing system in the newest capsule, named Endurance by its crew.

A balky parachute during Monday's descent had SpaceX engineers poring over the data, before giving the go-ahead for Wednesday's launch. One of the four chutes opened more than a minute late, a problem seen in testing and well within safety limits, but still being examined, officials said.

As of Wednesday, Elon Musk's company has launched 18 people in 18 months.

"Human spaceflight was the reason we were founded, so it's incredibly meaningful for the whole team," said Sarah Walker, a SpaceX manager.

The European Space Agency's Maurer is one of three newbies on the crew. The 51-year-old was a finalist when he first applied to be an astronaut. Encouraged, he left his research job at a medical company and joined the space agency as an engineer, and made the astronaut cut in 2015.

Chari, 44, is an Air Force colonel and the first space rookie in decades to lead a mission to orbit for NASA. A test pilot from Cedar Falls, Iowa, Chari accumulated more than 2,500 hours in fighter jets, including combat missions in Iraq.

Also on board:

— Dr. Thomas Marshburn, 61, will be the oldest person to live aboard the space station and perform a spacewalk. □

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Stocks edge higher on Wall Street, led by gains in Big Tech

By **DAMIAN J. TROISE** AP Business Writer

Stocks edged higher in afternoon trading on Wall Street Thursday a day after a surge in inflation tripped up major indexes.

The S&P 500 rose 0.3% as of 12:01 p.m. Eastern. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 59 points, or 0.2%, to 36,020 largely due to a steep drop in Walt Disney. The Nasdaq rose 0.8%.

Smaller-company stocks outpaced the broader market in a sign that investors were feeling confident about economic growth. The Russell 2000 rose 0.9%.

Technology stocks made the strongest gains, led by chipmakers. Nvidia rose 1.8% and Qualcomm rose 2.9%.

A mix of companies that rely on direct consumer spending also gained ground.

Coach and Kate Spade owner Tapestry jumped 9.5% after reporting strong fiscal first-quarter financial results.

Health care stocks fell. Medical technology maker Medtronic shed 2.3%. Industries that are considered less risky, including utilities and household product makers, lagged the broader market.

Walt Disney fell 7.1% after reporting a slowdown in subscriber gains at its streaming channel and weak fiscal fourth-quarter financial results.

Beyond Meat dropped 14.2% after reporting a much wider loss than analysts were expecting.

The latest round of corporate earnings has been winding down. Weeks of solid financial reports helped the broader market rise and reach a series of records. Inflation concerns have been rattling investors throughout the week, however.

"It's a pretty simple rule to be long during earnings and cautious outside of earnings," said Jay Hatfield, CEO of Infrastructure Capital Advisors. "Earnings ends and then the stock market is a victim of other data,



which tends to be bad." Every major index slipped on Wednesday following a hotter-than-expected inflation report from the Labor Department that revealed a surge in consumer prices surged in October. That report came on the heels of data on Tuesday that showed inflation at the wholesale level also surged in October.

The inflation concerns pushed bond yields broadly higher on Wednesday, though the bond market was closed for Veterans Day on Thursday. The yield on the 10-year Treasury stood at 1.55% as of late Wednesday.

Companies have been warning that they are being squeezed by higher raw materials costs and sup-

ply chain problems. Many have been able to pass off those higher costs to consumers, but that has raised concerns about higher prices eventually prompting a pullback in consumer spending.

The latest report on consumer prices revealed that inflation is hitting essential items such as food, rent, autos and heating oil particularly hard. Analysts worry that consumers could cut spending on discretionary items to focus on essentials, which could then crimp the broader economic recovery.

Concerns about rising inflation are also raising expectations that the Federal Reserve will have to raise short-term interest rates more quickly off their re-

cord low. The central bank has already begun to pare back on the bond purchases it makes every month to keep longer-term rates low. "The weird thing is what's hurting the economy is also supporting the stock market," Hatfield said, referring to the Fed's stimulus measures. □



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Sta. Cruz	527 2900
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Phone Directory Tel. 118



Man earns Ph.D., fulfills dream of being physicist — at 89

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT
Associated Press
EAST PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)

— An 89-year-old Rhode Island man has achieved a goal he spent two decades working toward and nearly a lifetime thinking about — earning his Ph.D. and becoming a physicist. Manfred Steiner recently defended his dissertation successfully at Brown University in Providence. Steiner cherishes this degree because it's what he always wanted — and because he overcame health problems that could have derailed his studies.

"But I made it, and this was the most gratifying point in my life, to finish it," he said Wednesday at his home in East Providence.

As a teenager in Vienna, Steiner was inspired to become a physicist after reading about Albert Einstein and Max Planck. He admired the precision of physics.

But after World War II, his mother and uncle advised him that studying medi-



cine would be a better choice in turbulent times. He earned his medical degree from the University of Vienna in 1955 and moved to the United States just a few weeks later, where he had a successful career studying blood and blood disorders.

Steiner studied hematology at Tufts University and bio-

chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before becoming a hematologist at Brown University. He became a full professor and led the hematology section of the medical school at Brown from 1985 to 1994.

Steiner helped establish a research program in hematology at the University

of North Carolina, which he directed until he retired from medicine in 2000 and returned to Rhode Island. Steiner and his wife, Sheila, who is 93, have been married since 1960. They have two children and six grandchildren. He'll celebrate his 90th birthday this month.

Steiner found medical research satisfying, but it

wasn't quite the same as his fascination with physics. "It was something like a wish that was never fulfilled, that always stuck in the back of my head," he said. "I always thought, you know, once I'm finished with medicine, I really don't want to spend my life just sitting around and maybe doing a little golfing or doing something like that. I wanted to keep active."

At age 70, he started taking undergraduate classes at Brown, one of the Ivy League universities. He was planning to take a few courses that interested him, but by 2007, he accumulated enough credits to enroll in the Ph.D. program.

Physics Professor Brad Marston was skeptical when Steiner entered his quantum mechanics class. Marston had taught graduate students in their 40s, but never in their 70s. Then he realized how serious Steiner was about the subject and how hard he worked.

Marston became Steiner's adviser for his dissertation. □

Designer Christopher John Rogers tops starry CFDA awards



By NARDOS HAILE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Designers Christopher John Rogers and Emily Bode-Aujla for BODE took top honors at the annual Council of Fashion Designers of America awards, leading a young and diverse slate of honorees on fashion's big night. Rogers, 27, whose bold purple ensemble was chosen by Vice President Kamala Harris for her inauguration, won for womenswear and Bode-Aujla for menswear at the glittery ceremony — the fashion industry's

version of the Oscars — which was held in person Wednesday night after a virtual ceremony in 2020 due to the pandemic. Accepting his award from host Emily Blunt, Rogers spoke of coming to New York in 2016, when "nobody would hire me." He thanked those who took a chance on him, "all the amazing people who can understand what I'm trying to do." Just last year, Rogers won the American emerging designer award.

The previously announced Fashion Icon award —

the most visible celebrity award of the annual event — went to Zendaya, for what the CFDA called her "global impact on fashion." The organization noted in a statement that the actor-singer, 25, had been a supporter of both emerging and established designers. It also cited her clothing line Daya by Zendaya, launched in 2013 and featuring "gender-fluid designs in a full-size range."

Zendaya was introduced by the 2010 recipient of the award, Iman, who noted the new recipient was the youngest yet to get the honor.

"Fashion did something special for me," Zendaya told the crowd, citing "the extraordinary gift of transformation, the ability to be confident and embody all these different characters and be literally anyone I wanted to be."

A spokesperson for labels like Lancôme and Valentino, Zendaya is currently

starring in "Dune." In 2020 she won the Emmy for lead actress in a drama for her performance in "Euphoria." Previous Fashion Icon recipients have included Beyoncé, Lady Gaga, Pharrell Williams, Rihanna, and Jennifer Lopez.

Actor Anya Taylor-Joy, best known for the hit Netflix series "The Queen's Gambit," was named Face of the Year, a new award this year.

Introduced by presenter Cara Delevingne as a "face that launched a thousand shipments of chess sets," Taylor-Joy thanked "everyone in this room that's allowed me to learn about fashion," calling it "the greatest education I could ask for."

The accessories design award went to Telfar Clemens for Telfar, and the award for American emerging designer went to Edwin Thompson for Theophilio.

Georgian designer Demna

Gvasalia for Balenciaga won the award for international womenswear designer and Grace Wales Bonner for Wales Bonner took the prize for international menswear designer.

The Geoffrey Beene lifetime achievement award went to Dapper Dan. The Harlem-based designer was the first Black designer to receive the honor.

And the founder's award was presented by Vogue's Anna Wintour to Aurora James for the 15 Percent Pledge, which calls on retailers and corporations to commit a portion of their annual purchasing power to Black-owned businesses. Blunt hosted the proceedings at THE POOL + THE GRILL in the Seagram Building on Park Avenue.

Nominations for the designer categories were submitted by the CFDA Fashion Awards Guild, made up of members of the CFDA, along with fashion retailers, journalists, and stylists. □

Seahawks seeking to win at Green Bay for 1st time since 1999

By The Associated Press undefined

SEATTLE (3-5) at GREEN BAY (7-2)

Sunday, 4:25 p.m. EST, Fox
OPENING LINE: Packers by 3 1/2, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

AGAINST THE SPREAD: Seahawks 5-3, Packers 8-1.

SERIES RECORD: Packers lead 14-9.

LAST MEETING: Packers beat Seahawks 28-23 in an NFC divisional playoff game Jan. 12, 2020, at Lambeau Field.

LAST WEEK: Seahawks had bye, beat Jaguars 31-7 at home on Oct. 31; Packers lost 13-7 at Kansas City.

SEAHAWKS OFFENSE: OVER-ALL (29), RUSH (21), PASS (27), SCORING (19).

SEAHAWKS DEFENSE: OVER-ALL (31), RUSH (25), PASS (28), SCORING (8T).

PACKERS OFFENSE: OVER-ALL (22), RUSH (18), PASS (22), SCORING (20).

PACKERS DEFENSE: OVER-ALL (5), RUSH (16), PASS (7), SCORING (6).

TURNOVER DIFFERENTIAL: Seahawks plus-4; Packers plus-6.

SEAHAWKS PLAYER TO WATCH: QB Russell Wilson. The seven-time Pro Bowl selection is expected to return to action Sunday after missing three games

because of an injury to the middle finger on his throwing hand that required surgery. Wilson had started 165 consecutive combined regular-season and playoff games before this injury.

PACKERS PLAYER TO WATCH: OLB Rashan Gary. The Seahawks will have to make sure this guy stays far away from Wilson. Gary's emergence has helped the Packers withstand the absence of 2020 Pro Bowl pass rusher Za'Darius Smith, who hasn't played since the season opener due to back trouble. Gary had a sack and three quarterback hits against the Chiefs. He has 18 quarterback hits this season, putting him in a tie for fifth place in the league.

KEY MATCHUP: Packers RBs Aaron Jones and A.J. Dillon vs. Seahawks LB Bobby Wagner. Dillon's emergence in his second season has helped him form a quality tandem with Jones, a 2020 Pro Bowl pick. Jones has rushed for 516 yards and Dillon has run for 355 yards. Wagner is one of the NFL's top run-stopping linebackers and needs just seven more stops to clinch his 10th straight 100-tackle season.

KEY INJURIES: The Seahawks are optimistic about Wil-

son's chances of playing Sunday as he returns from his finger injury. ... Seahawks RB Chris Carson is practicing again after missing four games with a neck injury, though his status for Sunday remains uncertain. ... Seahawks LB Cody Barton (quadriceps) and S Marquise Blair (knee) didn't practice Wednesday. ... Packers QB Aaron Rodgers missed the Chiefs game after testing positive for COVID-19. He could return as early as Saturday, which would enable him to play in Sunday's game. ... Packers OT David Bakhtiari (knee) was activated from the physically unable to perform list Wednesday, but his status for Sunday remains uncertain. ... Packers TE Robert Tonyan (knee) is out for the season. ... Packers CB Jaire Alexander (shoulder), OLB Za'Darius Smith (back) and C Josh Myers (knee) are on injured reserve and won't play Sunday.

SERIES NOTES: The Seahawks haven't won at Green Bay since 1999. Since then, the Seahawks have lost six regular-season games and three playoff contests at Lambeau Field. Including the playoffs, the home team has won the



last nine matchups in this series. ... The last victory by a visiting team was Green Bay's 27-17 victory at Seattle in 2008. ... The Packers are 11-0 against Seattle when they score at least 25 points.

STATS AND STUFF: Seahawks WR DK Metcalf has 25 career touchdown catches already. The only other NFL players since 1990 with at least 25 touchdown catches through their first 40 career games are Randy Moss (36) and Odell Beckham Jr. (34). ... Metcalf has eight touchdown catches this season to tie Tampa Bay's Mike Evans for second place in the NFL, behind Cooper Kupp of the Los Angeles Rams with 10. ... Seahawks S Jamal Adams has 21 1/2 sacks since 2017, the most by any NFL

defensive back during that stretch. ... Green Bay's loss at Kansas City snapped a seven-game winning streak. ... The Packers share the NFL's second-best record with the Los Angeles Rams and Tennessee Titans. The Arizona Cardinals (8-1) have the best overall record but have lost to Green Bay. ... Packers QB Jordan Love, a 2020 first-round draft pick from Utah State, made his first career start in the Chiefs game. Love would start again if Rodgers is unavailable Sunday. ... The Packers have allowed no more than 23 points in six straight games. ... Packers K Mason Crosby has made just four of his last 10 field-goal attempts. Before this slump, he made a franchise-record 27 straight field-goal attempts. □

Wade lifts Australia into T20 World Cup final over Pakistan

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)

— Matthew Wade smacked three successive sixes off Pakistan's Shaheen Afridi in the penultimate over and lifted Australia into the final of the T20 World Cup with a five-wicket victory Thursday.

Wade crashed Pakistan hopes in a stunning display of power-hitting against a premier T20 fast bowler as Australia cruised to 177-5 with an over to spare.

Pakistan reached the semifinals on the back of five successive wins in the group games and had stretched their win streak in the United Arab Emirates to 16 matches over five years.

But Hasan Ali dropped a regulation catch of the left-hander Wade at mid-wicket before Afridi was hit for three sixes with two of those scooping over the short fine leg.

Hasan also went for 27 runs off his last two overs against Wade and Marcus Stoinis and returned with

the expensive figures of 0-44.

Wade made an unbeaten 41 off just 17 balls and Stoinis supported him superbly with 40 off 31 balls as both batsmen shared a match-winning 81-run partnership off just 40 balls.

Earlier, half centuries by in-form Mohammad Rizwan (67) and Fakhar Zaman (55 not out) helped Pakistan reach 176-4 after Australia captain Aaron Finch won the toss and elected to field.

"Probably hasn't sunk in, I've just finished batting," Wade said. "When I got out there with Marcus, he was really confident we'd get them, even though I was a little unsure. ... It got down to two a ball, and from there it was if you got one in your arc, just try to hit it."

Leg-spinner Shadab Khan (4-26) had Australia's back against the walls at 96-5 in the 14th over before Stoinis and Wade's onslaught against the fast bowlers took the

game away from Pakistan in the death overs.

"If we had taken that (Hasan Ali) catch, it might have made the difference," Pakistan captain Babar Azam said. "I hope we try and learn from our mistakes after this. We've played so well in the tournament, we'll gain confidence, and we'll continue to try and play this way." Shadab had the wickets of Mitchell Marsh (28), Steve Smith (5) and Glenn Maxwell (7), but his most prized wicket came in controversial circumstances when David Warner didn't go for a television referral.

Warner made 49 off 30 balls and had the chase under control but didn't review a caught behind decision as the television replays suggested he didn't edge the ball to wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan. Earlier, Rizwan became the first batter in the world to score 1,000 runs in Twenty20s in a calendar year, but not before he twice got

dropped.

Warner dropped a tough chance while running backward from mid-off before Rizwan had scored and Zampa missed a difficult low catch in the deep.

Those letoffs allowed Rizwan to share two solid stands -- adding 71 runs with Babar (39) and then 72 with Zaman, who provided a perfect finish by hammering two sixes to Mitchell Starc. However, Zaman was also lucky to get a life when Smith dropped him on 40 before the left-hander added vital runs in the last over.

Australia will take on New Zealand in the final on Sunday at Dubai after the Black Caps defeated England in the first semifinal — also by five wickets — on Wednesday.

The toss could again prove vital in the final as 11 out of 12 games in the tournament has been won by the teams chasing the targets in Dubai. □

Vincent Zhou's rise coming at the right time in Olympic year

By **BARRY WILNER**

Vincent Zhou couldn't have had better timing. Not specifically on his jumps and spins and footwork, all of which must be precise when you are an elite figure skater. More so on just when he put everything together for perhaps the best performance of his career. Zhou nailed practically everything at Skate America in October, the first of six Grand Prix series events, the main competitions leading up to February's Beijing Olympics. He was so good that even if three-time world champion Nathan Chen, who hadn't lost since the last Olympics, had been on his game, Zhou still might have won.

That showing could be a seminal one for Zhou should he build on it over the next few weeks, beginning at the NHK Trophy in Japan this weekend.

"That was crazy," Zhou says of Skate America, where he also defeated 2018 Olympic silver medalist Shoma Uno of Japan, who will be in the field at NHK Trophy. Zhou finished sixth at the Pyeongchang Games. "Looking back on it, I think I'm just really happy with how things played out and to be able to capitalize on



the opportunity after the short program. I realized that winning Skate America sets me up well for qualifying for the Grand Prix final, which is a great prospect. "That time flies by really quickly, though. It is not really much time at all between events. With big events, there's always a big emotional and physical come down, and before you know it, it is the next competition."

Still, a strong finish this weekend would elevate Zhou to the top level of medal contenders in Beijing, along with Chen, Uno and, of

course, Yuzuru Hanyu, the 2014 and 2018 Olympic champion. Hanyu had to withdraw from NHK Trophy with a right ankle injury and it's possible he won't compete again until the Japanese nationals, if then.

While Zhou readily recognizes the powerful competition for the Olympic podium, he also knows he must concentrate on his journey. That's even more essential because just last March he fell apart in the short program at the world championships and didn't even qualify for the free skate. That forced him to partici-

pate in the Nebelhorn Trophy to secure a third men's Olympic spot for the United States, and in a clutch performance, he won Nebelhorn.

"The first thing my team and I did was sit down and start to analyze," says Zhou, 21, whose team includes coaches Mie Hamada, Tom Zakrajsek and Drew Meekins and choreographer Lori Nichol. "We went over all the variables and factors, came up with detailed itemized action plans to address each of these to turn them into constants as much as possible.

"I really didn't take too much time to wallow in misery or however you want to describe it, got right into training to build my strength base for next season."

So far, so good.

Zhou, who has taken a leave of absence from Brown University, always has had the jumps, including the necessary set of quads. He hasn't always landed them in competition, though his resume is quite solid, including bronze at worlds in 2019 and three silvers at nationals.

At Skate America, he had everything. He so impressed Scott Hamilton that the figure skating icon was effusive in his praise of Zhou.

"The way that Vincent looked at Skate America was world beating; man he was great," Hamilton says. "These are all great talents and it comes down to who is going to lay it down and who is going to be able to collect the most points. If he is able to stay vertical he can beat just about anybody in the world."

While Hamilton gushed, Zhou nearly blushed at such words.

"I am definitely motivated to make that statement true, and honored it came from Scott," Zhou says. □

Hamilton sees steep challenge against Verstappen in Brazil



By **MAURICIO SAVARESE AP Sports Writer**

SAO PAULO (AP) — Lewis Hamilton is running out of time in his quest to win a fifth straight Formula One title, and the Brazilian Grand Prix offers the British driver little hope of catching leader Max Verstappen.

The seven-time champion from Mercedes trails his Red Bull rival by 19 points heading into Sunday's race, the fourth-to-last event of the season.

"I would imagine it's as steep as it can be," Hamilton said Thursday about the challenge of catching the

Dutchman at Interlagos. Verstappen won in Brazil two years ago, while last year's race was canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic. The Dutchman also won last weekend in Mexico and Red Bull is only one point behind Mercedes in the constructors' championship.

"Their pace was phenomenal in the last race. They have had a strong car all year. They have had the strongest car actually, you can tell," Hamilton said. "Last time here (in Brazil) they were incredibly strong. We are anticipating again that they will be very hard to beat this weekend."

The traditionally unpredictable weather at the Sao Paulo track could have an

effect on the race, though local weather forecasts say the rain is not expected to last into the weekend. Both Hamilton and Verstappen are good in wet conditions, but results can be unpredictable.

Hamilton also said he has had difficulties with his car because of recent changes.

"This year we have had our wings clipped. It has definitely been harder from an operational sense to maximize the car," Hamilton said. "We will just try to focus on getting the car in the right window, and that is not easy. It is not an easy car to set up."

"It is really difficult to explain and to go into in terms of details, but it is just harder

to optimize."

The Brazilian GP will be the third event this season with a qualifying sprint race on Saturday. Friday's training session will have the traditional qualifying format to set positions for the sprint race, which will determine Sunday's grid.

The two previous sprint races were held in Silverstone and Monza.

The three days of action at Interlagos will bring 170,000 fans to the track. The state of Sao Paulo only removed restrictions on full capacity at sporting events at the beginning of November.

Brazil has reported more than 610,000 deaths from the coronavirus, but the rate has sharply reduced around the country. □